

PAN Interventions on Chlorpyrifos

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Emily Marquez, Senior scientist, PANNA

Thank you madame president, I am Emily Marquez from PAN International, a global network that works to promote agroecological alternatives to pesticides.

PAN would like to thank the chair, drafters, POPRC members, and the secretariat for all of their hard work during the POPRC. PAN supports the listing of chlorpyrifos in Annex A, with no specific exemptions.

A large body of scientific evidence on chlorpyrifos indicates that the pesticide can harm brain development in children at low doses, with long-term consequences. Chlorpyrifos has also been found in the Arctic, at great distances from where it is used.

Farmers and their families are at risk of acute exposures and thus pesticide poisonings where chlorpyrifos is used, while people eating produce grown with the use of this pesticide are exposed to chlorpyrifos residues on their food—children, especially are vulnerable to the effects of chlorpyrifos exposure.

Illegal uses of pesticides can be difficult to manage in many countries, putting human health and the environment at risk. farmers' livelihoods are also at risk when exports are rejected from the global market when chlorpyrifos residues are found.

Viable alternatives to pest management exist for all of the crops where specific exemptions have been requested or noted, including ecological pest management practices and agroecological alternatives that do not rely on pesticides.

PAN urges Parties to consider the impact of continuing use of chlorpyrifos, a brain-harming pesticide with readily available alternatives, and to list chlorpyrifos in Annex A with no specific exemptions. We look forward to a productive conversation in the contact group.

Thank you.

Dileep Kumar, CEO PAN India

Thank you Madam Chair

This is A. D. Dileep Kumar from Pesticides Action Network India.

We would like to thank the POP Review Committee for the excellent work done on risk assessment and risk management evaluation of chlorpyrifos and recommending it to be listed in Annex III of the Stockholm Convention.

We agree that chlorpyrifos is potentially dangerous and likely to cause significant adverse effects due to its inherent toxicity and long-range environmental transport on human health and the environment. Residues of chlorpyrifos have been detected in several agricultural produce, food items, water samples, human blood samples and breast milk in India, indicating widespread contamination. A 2003 India study reported that chlorpyrifos was found in breast milk at high levels which is 41 times higher than the level recommended by the World Health Organisation. Further, it has been reported in both unintentional/occupational and self-poisonings. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) had concluded that chlorpyrifos meets all criteria warranting global phase out.

We emphasise the note from POPs Review Committee in its risk assessment evaluation of Chlorpyrifos which states that “prohibition of production, use, import and export by listing in Annex A without exemptions is the most effective control measure to prevent harm to human health and the environment. Several countries in a wide range of climates, economic development levels, and specific chlorpyrifos applications have successfully implemented this to date.

It has been noted that several viable alternatives are available to chlorpyrifos for all of its current uses for which exemption are requested and phase out will not affect agriculture production and other pest management.

As responsible community, we must no longer turn a blind eye to the scientific consensus on chlorpyrifos. Its link to neurotoxicity, irreversible brain damage in unborn children, reproductive toxicity, persistence and its ability to travel thousands of miles, contaminating ecosystems, makes a strong case for its global elimination. The time for decisive action is now.

Therefore we recommend parties to agree on listing of chlorpyrifos in the Annex A to the convention without exemption.

Thank you Madam Chair.

Alia Diyana, Project coordinator, PANAP

Thank you, Madam Chair. I am speaking on behalf of Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, working alongside vulnerable communities across Asia and the Pacific.

Chlorpyrifos has profound chronic health impacts, particularly on the developing child. Even very low-level exposure in the womb can cause structural changes in the brain, leading to reduced IQ and working memory.

Communities in our region should not continue to bear the burden of exposure to pesticides like chlorpyrifos, whose characteristics as a persistent organic pollutant and associated harms are already well-documented. It is time to act decisively to protect our health, our food systems, and our shared future.

Therefore, we strongly support the listing of chlorpyrifos under Annex A of the Stockholm Convention, without exemptions.

Thank you.